

## **Conflicts of Interest Criteria for Research School<sup>plus</sup>** **- Reviewers-**

We have asked you to prepare a review of a research application which has been proposed by a doctoral researcher from RUB. The examination of any possible conflict of interest is a very important aspect of these peer-review procedures, which must always be considered. The examination of a conflict of interest always relates to the application under review and will be required again if we invite you to review in the future.

We therefore request that you read through the conflict of interest criteria below with due care and attention. Should circumstances exist which might provide grounds for the perception of a conflict of interest, please record these in the relevant place in the Invitation for Review questionnaire (points 2 and 5). Should a potential conflict of interest become apparent to you in the process of examining the application or preparing the review, we request that you inform the Central Coordination Office.

On the basis of the guidelines from other research funding organisations we have compiled the following criteria for a conflict of interest when reviewing applications from Research School<sup>plus</sup>. If one of the following criteria (1-4) applies to you, then we must ask that, on this occasion, you do not accept the invitation to review.

1. Close relation, spouse, registered partnership or a companionship similar to marriage with the applicant
2. Personal interest in the funding decision or those persons listed under (1).
3. Close academic cooperation which is current or planned.
4. Dependent employment or supervisory relationship (e.g. teacher-student relationship up to and including the postdoc phase)

There are other criteria which could constitute a conflict of interest. Should one or more of the following criteria (5-7) apply to you, then your own judgement will be key. In this case we ask you to consider, for yourself, as to whether you are able to assess the application objectively.

5. Family relationships which are not covered by point 1 above, other personal ties or conflicts with the applicant.
6. Economic interest in persons listed under point 5.
7. Academic cooperation within the last three years, e.g. joint publications.

The Central Coordination Office is available for advice if you are unsure and for clarification in specific individual cases.